Tonight's concert at Miami Arena truly is a perfect combination. uniting multiple generations of salsa stars



Giovanni Hidalgo

Cheo Feliciano

Top 5 hits of the week, according to Billboard maga-

## SINGLES

1. Dreamlover. Mariah Carev. 2. I'd Do Anything for Love (but I Won't Do That). Meat Loaf. 3. All That She Wants, Ace Of 4. Just Kickin It," Xscane 5. The River of Dreams, Billy

## ALBUMS

1, 8at Out Of Heli Back Into Helf, Most Lost 2. In Pieces, Garth Brooks. 3, in Utero, Nirvana. 4. River of Dreams, Billy Joel.

5. Music Box.
Mariah Garey.

# R&B SINGLES

1. Just Kickin' It. Xscape. 2. Anniversary, Tony! Toni! Tone! 3. Right Here (Human Nature)/Down-town, SWV. 4. Hey Mr. D. J., Zhane.

LATIN SINGLES 1. Hasta Que Me Olvides, Luis Miguel. 2. Con Los Anos Que Me Quedan. Gioria Estefan. 3. Nunca Voy A Olvidarte, Cristian.

Jose y Durvai.

By JORDAN LEVIN

he multiple generations of New York salsa get together tonight at the Miami Arena, from godparents Celia Cruz and Tito Puente to stylish young mavericks India and Marc Anthony, in Combinacion Perfecta (Perfect Combination) an all-star concert iam hi 16 singers and an orchestra of soloists.
The Miami concert is the first

live presentation of Combinacion Perfecta, which has already been released as a recording; it will be filmed for brondcast on Univi-sion in December, hit New York's Madison Square Garden on Saturday and then tour South America. The event is a project of New York-based Ralph Mercado, a longtime promoter and manager of many of the top names in Latin music. With the atin entertainment boom in Miami. Mercado's organization is becoming more active here, prompting the decision to premiere in Miami instead of its traditional home base in New York.

"The idea comes from the Fania All-Stars," Mercado said by phone from New York. by phone from New Lork. "Every decade has its all-star groups. This one has a balance of music and ages, from the young ones to the pioneers." The Fania All-Stars were an outgrowth of Johnny Pacheco's Fania label. which included some of the greatest names in Latin music in the '60s and '70s and defined the the 60s and 70s and defined the hard-edged, urban. Puerio Rican sound of the New York salsa of the era. Their monster jam con-certs tat venues like Madison Square Garden) were legendary.



The 16 Perfects singers, all of whom record for Mercado's RMM and Soho labels, will perform duets composed by a variety of songwriters for this project. Cruz and Oscar D'Leon join up for El Son de Celia y Oscar.
Dominican Jose Alberto, "El Canario," whose nickname comes from his flute-playing and whistling, holds his own with D'Leon on the exuberant Liego El Sabor. Cheo Feliciano and Pete "El Conde" Rodriguez, the original vocalists for the Fania All-Stars, reunité for a guisy, soulful number called Soneros de Bailadores that promises to be a

standout.
Tito Nieves, known as the "Pavarotti of Salsa" for his enormous size and equally enormous bass voice, joins Tony Vega on the punchy, cheerful Tu Por Aqui y Yo Por Alla. Popular romantic

singers Ray Sepulveda and Johnny Rivers do Recordando A Louie, and Domingo Quiones and Van Lester perform another tribute, this one to Hector Lavoe. the legendary singer for the early Willie Colon (Lester is known for his vocal and physical similarity to Lavoc). Lone-haired romantic idol Marc Anthony, one of a new crop of singers who have switched from dance to salsa. joins India, the tough, sultry, throaty-voiced bombshell who is

salsa, on the smooth, sweetly melodic Vivir Lo Nuestro.

The Miami concert also includes Miles Pea, a recent Cuban expatriate with an enormous sonero voice, a troupe of dancers, and Orquesta Guayacan from Colombia

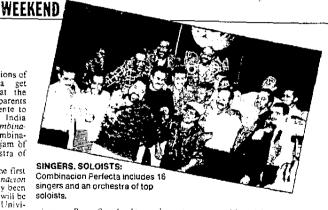
one of the few women working in

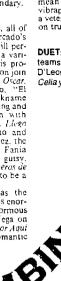
### Top session players

a trumpeter with a rich, smooth sound who has his own jazz record out; Giovanni Hidalgo, the virtuosic and fiery conguero; and Sergio George, another veteran arranger and music director, on piano.

The show winds up with a gigantic vocal and instrumental number called R.M.M. Ritma Mundo, Musical (literally Musical Rhythm World), in the classic descarga (jam) tradition, each singer working in, improvising, showing their best, trying to outdo each other. With this combination of artists, it could be explosive.

Combinación Perfecta begins at 8 tonicos al the Miami Arena. Tickets are \$25 and \$35, available through the Arena pox office or Ticketmaster, 523-3309 in Broward, 358-5885 in Dade and 407 839-3900 in Patro







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